

October 31, 1996

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Communications
Office of Secretary

Subject: Ensuring Universal Service Access for Education

I urge the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to adopt a meaningful approach to ensure universal access for our nation's schools and libraries.

I know that the Board is examining ways to determine the service cost for connectivity. An initial step is to find a fair and equitable benchmark rate, which could be determined by taking a nationwide average of service charges for urban areas with competitive markets for access. The rate for schools and libraries would be a percentage reduction from that benchmark. To make access affordable the discount must be substantial.

This "national access charge" would level the playing field by giving the same discounted rates to all schools and libraries regardless of the distance to the nearest provider. Because no school or library should be denied access because of an inability to pay, the Board should also establish a mechanism to ensure that those institutions without adequate resources to afford even the discounted rates can get at least a minimum level of service.

A proposal offered by President Clinton, and backed by Secretary Riley, Secretary Glickman and Secretary Kantor, addresses these items. The proposal calls for free access to a basic package that includes the Internet and discounts for advanced communication services. Such a plan, referred to as the E-Rate, would ensure that teachers and students on Guam, as well as other remote areas of the nation, will benefit from the vast educational resources available on the information superhighway.

For Information Service Providers (ISP's), the difference between the discounted rate and the actual cost of providing service would be taken out of the Universal Service Fund. The Board must ensure the definition of eligible carriers in Section 214(e) is broad enough to include ISP's. This will ensure that affordable access to the information superhighway will be available to all users in the nation.

October 31, 1996 Page 2

Another issue facing the Board is whether to use Universal Service Funds to "hardwire" schools and libraries. Clearly, Congress and the President have made meaningful access to the information superhighway a national priority. Providing free or discounted services to schools and libraries that are not wired, or do not have the hardware to access those services, does not meet that goal.

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However, with cost estimates for wiring the nation's schools and libraries and providing related hardware between 6 and upwards of 40 billion dollars, use of the Universal Service Fund alone may not be the answer. Instead, a percentage of the Fund could be set aside to ensure a minimum level of hardwiring and hardware for schools and libraries that do not have the resources to fund such an effort. Additionally, it may be appropriate to use the Telecommunication Development Fund, as provided in Section 714 of the Telecommunications Act, to provide low interest loans and loan guarantees, and pay for wiring and equipment. Also, the National Education Technology Funding Corporation, as outlined in Section 708, encourages the Corporation to provide maximum aid to elementary schools, secondary schools and public libraries.

President Clinton has already stated the Administrations funding commitment. This commitment, coupled with use of the Universal Service Fund, and through endeavors such as NetDay, will enable us to meet the challenge of getting our children on the information superhighway. Businesses, state and local governments, educational systems, individuals have all joined in getting schools and libraries on-line. But more needs to be done. The Board should continue to assess the progress of universal access in our schools and libraries, and modify its recommendations accordingly.

Whether located in remote mountains, the rural farmbelt, the north shore of Alaska or a Pacific island, all schools and libraries must have affordable and quality access to advanced communication services. As the November 8 deadline for making recommendations approaches, I thank you for your efforts to bring the power of telecommunications technology to our children.

Cordially,

Carl T. Č. Gutierrez

GOVETROT

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October 4, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW, Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

RECEIVED

Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that ever school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "E-Rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning. sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

As the Federal Communications Commission and Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

I urge you to each upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Because they often have very limited budgets but perform essential services, I am writing in strong support of substantial and affordable discounts for telecommunication services for America's schools and libraries. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Internet connectivity in America's schools and libraries will provide all citizens with access to the resources of libraries throughout the world and will facilitate the sharing of information in the our communities, states, and nation. Supporting schools and libraries with a substantially discounted e-rate for telecommunications helps provide all citizens of our nation with access to critical information resources — avoiding pockets of information 'have nots.' Once connected, schools and libraries will utilize these networked information resources to help prepare the nations' children and citizens to advance in the competition and rapid changes characterizing the global information economy of the next century. The learning made possible with an e-rate may be essential to the future of our democracy.

The existence and the well-being of libraries measures the priority that a community or a nation places on freedom, knowledge, truth, justice, culture, and children. Libraries inform citizens, obliterate boundaries, promote equality, provide alternative perspectives, nourish creativity, educate children, build communities, expand economies, nurture broken souls, and sustain families. They preserve the wisdom and the culture of the past. They provide electronic gateways to today's knowledge, and they harbor visions of our future. The founders of our democracy realized that our system of freedom could not and would not flourish without educationa and libraries. And they also realized that libraries could not flourish without the support of all citizens, the support of governments, and the support of business.

Discounted telecommunications for schools and libraries also provides the public with enhanced opportunities to participate in their democracy by promoting an informed and knowledgeable populace and increasing citizen access to government facilities and government information. Facilitating the free flow of information between the government and the public enables the public to meet their civic responsibilities, protect their rights, and provide for their consent. Networked government information belongs to the people, is owned by them, and should be accessible to them. These principles have been fundamental tenets of this nation since its inception.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities' needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station. I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every learner in America.

Sincerely

Mark England Assistant Director

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October, 1996

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

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I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Margaret host

Missouri State Teachers Association

P.O. Box 458 • Columbia, MO 65205-0458 • (573) 442-3127 FAX: (573) 443-5079

The Professional Way.

October 15, 1996

Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20544 EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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NOV 1 4 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

On October 9, 1996, the individuals listed below met with Kenneth McClure and Martha Hogerty to present information on the current status of technology in Missouri schools. In addition, we outlined perceived technological needs in education and concerns that could be resolved with the "Telecommunications Act of 1996".

Attendees: Cal Owens-Cooperating School Districts of St. Louis, Brent Ghan-Missouri School Boards Association, Ken Clark-Secondary Principals Association, Gary Sharpe-Missouri Association of School Administrators & Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals, Judy Brown-Superintendent, Bob Quinn and Cindy Heider-Missouri National Education Association, and DeeAnn Aull-Missouri State Teacher Association.

In addition to a question and answer period, the following points were discussed:

- If the goal is to affordably make the world of technology accessible to every student, emphasis must be placed on the need for deep-long term-discounts on school rates.
- If all instructional levels are to have access in diverse school communities, local control of decision making in telecommunication planning is necessary.
- If schools are supposed to choose the most cost-effective and appropriate services to reach their technology goals, a broad range of services must be possible, including the most advanced services commercially available.
- If all of the 527 school districts of Missouri are to experience affordable rates, it is obvious that ability to pay with deeper discounts for rural, isolated, high-cost, and low-income areas will need to be considered.
- If technology is to be accessible to students in classrooms, consideration must be given to discounting the cost of wiring and equipment within the school buildings.
- If effective use of technology is to occur, professional development in productive use and trouble-shooting should be emphasized.

We are privileged in Missouri to have both Martha Hogerty and Ken McClure as key decision makers. We understand the difficult decisions that your committee must make. Thank you for allowing this opportunity for input.

Sincerely,

DeeAnn Aull - Director of Governmental Relations

Missouri State Teachers Association

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Headquarters: (800) 392-0532

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NOV 1 4 1996

October 7, 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 200554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at <u>significantly</u> discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Theresa Pearson

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October 14,1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street MW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

NOV 1 4 1996

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Office of Secretary

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In order to provide a good level of servive, schools require a high capacity connection. Without significant rate support help, these connections are beyond the capabilities of most schools. As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal serve provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

We/I urge you to act upon this historic opportiinity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hawkins

Information Systems Manager

(202) 418-2801 1196-40

October 4, 1996

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW, Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45



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I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Disabett J. Murray

Sincerely,

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 200554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt (& State Public Utility Commissioner & Members of Congress):

I write to tell you that I strongly support the E-Rate bill and encourage its swift approval into law. This bill could enable more schools to be able to use the many resources on telecommunications 'superhighway'. It could greatly improve students' ability to learn about the world, as well as learn about many current events. Also, by using a computer to find this information, a student could learn the proper use of a computer.

I urge you to act upon this historic opprtunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely, Franklin W. Roberts

Franklin W. Roberts

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October 15, 1996

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NOV 1 4 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman hundt (& State Public Utility Commissioner & Members of Congress):

My husband and I, Brian and Kristine Fiegen, write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

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We urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Brian and Kristine Fiegen

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I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

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CU 94-45

Park Country School 5204 Roland Avenue Baltimore, Mark 21210 (410) 323-5500 FAX (410) 323-2164 Jean Waller Brune. Head of School

Federal Communications Commission

October, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20054

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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Sincerely.

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Constance Killy Higher

Federal Communications Commission

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October, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Latricia Novatrol

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Sincerely,

Jenniger C. McKernie

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1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

EX DARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Hundt (& State Public Utility Commissioner & Members of Congress).

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We/I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

Sincerely, MAMY- JEMME TEXPET

**Please use the following paragraph in lieu of the last one when addressing letters to U.S.. Senators, representatives, your governor and federal candidates:

Please convey these recommendations to the FCC and the Federal-State Joint Board. Thank you for your attention to this matter of considerable importance to all schools, classrooms, and libraries.

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

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John Weached, Joann Weacrock

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We/I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Hornell, ny City School District Don's C. Trappe

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45

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October, 1996

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NOV 1 4 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Room 814 Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and lifelong learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "erate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

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As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal serve provision, I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

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Mr DHus Kichard Kaapla

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Sincerely,

Donna M. Reynolds

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Silver M. Rhody Andrew J. Rhody

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